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CLAIMS

1. A method for a registry of business entity definitions to handle user
requests to access business entity definitions, the method comprising
5   steps of:

     receiving a request from a user to access a business entity
definition;

10   ·obtaining, from data associated with the request, the identity of
the user;

     determining, from permission details associated with the business
entity definition and the identity of the user, whether the user has
15   permission to access information in the business entity definition; and

     denying the user access to information in the business entity
definition if it is determined that the user does not have permission.

20   2. The method of claim 1 wherein the request specifies a search criteria,
and method comprises the further step of:

     using the search criteria to locate the business entity definition
and to determine what information in the business entity definition the
25   user wishes to access.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein: the information in the
business entity definition comprises a plurality of information elements
each having permission details associated therewith; the step of
30   determining determines from permission details associated with each
information element whether the user has permission to access that
information element; and the step of denying denies the user access to
those information elements for which it is determined that the user does
not have permission.

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4. The method of claim 3 wherein the determining step further determines
whether a user has permission to access an information element from an
access policy and permission details associated with a different
information element.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein the information elements are in a
hierarchy and the determining step determines that a user does not have

permission to access a first information element if permission details
associated with one or more second information elements directly beneath
the first information element in the hierarchy indicate that user does not
have access to one or more of the second information elements.

6. The method of any one of claims 3, 4 and 5 comprising the further step
of:

locating the permission details in a file system in which the
permission details are in a location in the file system which is defined
according to the information element with which they are associated.

7. The method of any preceding claim wherein the registry is a UDDI
registry and the information in the business entity definition is a
business entity information element, the business entity information
element containing one or more business service entity information
elements, each business service entity containing one or more binding
template information elements and each binding template containing one or
more references each referring to a technical model information element.

8. A registry of business entity definitions for handling requests to
access business entity definitions, the registry comprising:

means for receiving a request from a user to access a business
entity definition;

means for obtaining, from data associated with the request, the
identity of the user;

means for determining, from permission details associated with the
business entity definition and the identity of the user, whether the user
has permission to access information in the business entity definition;
and
means for denying the user access to information in the business
entity definition if it is determined that the user does not have
permission.

9. The registry of claim 1 wherein the request specifies a search
criteria, and the registry further comprises:

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means for using the search criteria to locate the business entity definition and to determine what information in the business entity definition the user wishes to access.

10. The registry of claim 8 or claim 9 wherein: the information in the business entity definition comprises a plurality of information elements each having permission details associated therewith, each of the plurality of information elements; the means for determining determines from permission details associated with each information element whether the user has permission to access that information element; and the means for denying denies the user access to those information elements for which it is determined that the user does not have permission.

11. The registry of claim 10 wherein the determining means further determines whether a user has permission to access an information element from an access policy and permission details associated with a different information element.

12. The registry of claim 11 wherein the information elements are in a hierarchy and the access policy specifies that a user does not have permission to access a first information element if permission details associated with one or more second information elements directly beneath the first information element in the hierarchy indicate that user does not have access to one or more of the second information elements.

13. The registry of any one of claims 10, 11 and 12 further comprising:

means for locating the permission details in a file system in which the permission details are in a location in the file system which is defined according to the information element with which they are associated.

14. The registry of any one of claims 8 to 13 wherein the registry is a UDDI registry and the information in the business entity definition is a business entity information element, the business entity information element containing one or more business service entity information elements, each business service entity containing one or more binding template information elements and each binding template containing one or more references each referring to a technical model information element.

15. A registry service for handling user requests to access business entity definitions, providing the service comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to access a business entity definition;

5   obtaining, from data associated with the request, the identity of the user;

determining, from permission details associated with the business entity definition and the identity of the user, whether the user has
10   permission to access information in the business entity definition; and

denying the user access to information in the business entity definition if it is determined that the user does not have permission.

15   16. A computer program product comprising instructions which, when run on a data processing host, cause said data processing host to carry out a method according to any one of claims 1 to 7.